

Book Reviews

Chen, Z.X., Chen, S.Y., Dickson, D.W. (eds.). 2004. Nematology – Advances and Perspectives. Volume I: Nematode Morphology, Physiology, and Ecology. Tsinghua University Press and CABI Publishing, Beijing and Wallingford, 636 pp., ISBN 0 85199 645 0.

Nematodes are one of the most abundant group in the animal kingdom, and four of five multicellular animals on the earth are nematodes. During the 20th century our knowledge of nematodes have developed in an unparalleled manner.

The development of nematology was largely attributed to the discovery of the importance of nematodes in agricultural ecosystems and their impact on society. But our knowledge of nematodes was developed not only on the reason of directly effect on agriculture and society. One of the most exciting and important new fields of nematology includes recent advances made in the use of *Caenorhabditis elegans* as model organism for basic biological studies. Research on the marine nematodes suggest that the secret of the natural history of our planet may lie in the nematodes dwelling deep in oceans.

The objective of this book is to summarize advances in nematology that have been made during 20th century and to provide perspectives for the development of nematology in the next century.

The book contains 12 chapters. The titles are the following: 1 – “A Century of Plant Nematology” by Kenneth R. Barker; 2 – “Perspectives on Nematology for the 21st Century” by John M. Webster; 3 – “Development Biology of Nematodes – What We Learn from *Caenorhabditis elegans*” by Marie-Anne Félix; 4 – “Nematode Morphology, Sensory Structure and Function” by James G. Baldwin and Rolland N. Perry; 5 – “Nematode Esophageal Glands and Plant Parasitism” by Richard S. Hussey and Eric L. Davies; 6 – “Surface Adhesion to Nematodes and its Consequence” by Allan F. Bird; 7 – “Nematode Behaviour and Migrations through Soil and Host Tissue” by A. Forest Robinson; 8 – “Background for Nematode Ecology in the 21st Century” by Gregor W. Yates and Brian Boag; 9 – “Marine Nematode Biodiversity” by P. John D. Lamshead; 10 – “Population Dynamics” by Robert McSorley and Larry W. Duncan; 11 – “Entomophilic Nematode Models for Studying Biodiversity and Cospeciation” by Robin M. Giblin-Davis, Kerrie A. Davis, Gary S. Taylor, and W. Kelley Thomas; 12 – “Cultivation of Nematodes” by Paul De Ley and Manuel Mundo-Ocampo. The last part of the book is Index.

The information in each chapter is concisely presented and is up to date. In my opinion, the book is a good source of knowledge for all people interested more detailed in nematodes, and especially it will be an excellent source of inspiration for nematologists.

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Ferraz L.C., Brown D. 2002. An Introduction to Nematodes: Plant Nematology. Pensoft Publishers, Sofia–Moscow, 236 pp., ISBN 9546421553.

It is estimated that plant parasitic nematodes cause an annual global crop yield loss of about 10%. Therefore knowledge of these animals, and methods of their control, is important for plant protection.

The book is presented in the style of a short university course, as 11 lectures, which the authors suggest, can be adapted as appropriate to local circumstances by the individual Lecturer. The titles of the Lectures are: 1. Plant nematodes in modern agriculture; 2. Ectoparasitic nematodes of economic importance; 3. Endoparasitic nematodes of major economic importance: Root-knot and cyst nematodes; 4. Further endo- and semi-endoparasitic nematodes of economic importance; 5. Nematode parasites of aerial parts of plants; 6. Morphology and structure; 7. Reproduction; 8. Bio-ecology; 9. Parasitism of plants; 10. Control; 11. Taxonomy and classification. Two last parts of the book are Appendix and Index.

Obviously, the authors have had to make difficult decisions as to contents of their book. It was a subjective thing, but after reading the book the readers have a lot of new knowledge of nematodes. Therefore, in my opinion, the book is a good source of knowledge for all people interested in agricultural nematology, especially for students.

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